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Journal of the Convention of Florida

22 Sept. to 28 Oct. 1810 } 37 Pages

Francisville September 22d 1810

The Convention assembled by a Special order of the President. Present Messrs John Rhea, John H. Johnson, William Barrow, John Mills, Philip Nicky and Thomas Lilly, And taking into consideration the conduct of his Excellency Charles Deha Delassus since the adjournment of the last meeting of this Convention at the town of Baton Rouge, viz his delaying to affix his signature to the ordinance which was announced by a solemn proclamation of the date of the 22d of August last to have been sanctioned and established as law until the approbation of the Captain General of the Island of Cuba should be obtained - his stating in writing to a Committee of this Convention that he had been imperiously forced to concur with the Convention in adopting that ordinance, his repeated declarations to individuals that he did not consider himself bound to support the measures establishing the said ordinance, And that he would negotiate with Governor Folch on his arrival & any measures he might deem proper, his offering threats to be made of opposition by force of arms to the establishment of those measures without any mark of disapprobation, at the same time refusing to arm the Militia for the defence of the inhabitants who were willing to support the government and laws of the country continuing to decide on cases of considerable importance) and give judgments

heretofore contrary to the provisions of the said ordinance, and finally his ~~not~~ having failed to deliver a copy of the said ordinance with his signature annexed to be recorded with the proceedings of the Convention agreable to his solemn promise to the said Committee: This Convention in the name of the good people of the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge declare that the said Charles Dehault Delaspes is unworthy of their confidence, and ought no longer to be entrusted with the administration of the Laws as the first magistrate of a people whom he has insulted and betrayed,

Whereupon it is resolved unanimously that the said Charles Dehault Delaspes be divested of all authority as Governor of this Jurisdiction and that the Colonel Commandant of the Militia be subject to the orders of this Convention only, with all the officers and men under his command, and be employed immediately to enforce obedience to the laws if necessary, and secure the public tranquility by carrying into complete operation the ordinance aforesaid, with the exception only that the powers heretofore vested in the Governor be exercised for the time being by this Convention.

On motion Resolved That some efficient measure be adopted to place at the disposition of this Convention the Garrison, Military Stores Public Archieves and other public property at the town of Baton Rouge, and that an order be issued to that effect to

the Colonel Commandant of the Militia of this Jurisdiction. Whereupon the following order was issued accordingly, signed by all the members present. viz

"To Philemon Thomas Esqr

Sir

By a resolution of the Convention bearing even date herewith, the Colonel Commandant of the Militia of the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge is directed in future to hold himself subject to this Convention only, and some prompt movement of the Militia being necessary for the public safety, you will therefore immediately on the receipt of this order embody as many of the Militia as may in your opinion be necessary to place the Convention in possession of the Garrison and the town of Baton Rouge together with the Archives of the Government, and command them in person or appoint such other officer or officers as your discretion and judgment may direct to orders to effect that important object without delay - St Francisville Sept 22d 1810

On motion Resolved that information be communicated without delay to the Government of the United States of the present situation of this Territory and of the wish of this Convention that the said Territory may be recognised and protected by them as an integral part of the United States.

Whereupon the following address was proposed

to be forwarded to the Governor of the Mississippi
Territory without delay viz
" To his Excellency David Holmes Governor
of the Mississippi Territory
Sir, We have been abandoned and betrayed
by our Governor Delaspas. who is now anxiously
waiting the arrival of Governor Toleh, and
avowedly with the determination of cooperating
with him in any measures he may direct.
Toleh is beyond all doubt on his march to-
wards Baton Rouge, not without support.
The enclosed resolution and order taken
upon it, will but shew our determination to
resist oppression. We cannot but cherish the
hope that our neighboring brethren will
be put in motion to our succour. Indeed we
all feel that the faith of our mother country
stands pledged for our protection and
support. In a day or two we calculate
on the pleasure of forwarding to your Ex-
cellency an unqualified declaration of
Independence, with such an appeal to
our parent country, as will at once free them
from any fear of being compromitted, and
of our unalterable determination to assert
our rights as an integral part of the Uni-
ted States. Any body of Militia put im-
mediately in motion, even under the pre-
text of preserving tranquility in their own
Territory could not fail to favor our views;
it would give a check to the torces, and
serve to animate the honest tho' timid
Americans. If the Gun boats could be

prevailed upon to drop down to neighborhood of Baton Rouge. the Dons would be paralised. The bearer a confidential friend to the cause will explain our situation and wants more fully." —

And the same being read was unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be signed by the President, and forwarded without delay. —

The Convention then adjourned to meet at the town of Baton Rouge on Tuesday next the 25th Instant at 10 o'Clock A. M. —

John Rhea President

And. Steele Secry

Baton Rouge Tuesday Sept. 25th 181

The Convention met according to adjourn
Present Mrs. John Rhea, John H. Joh
son, William Barrow, John Mills, Philo
Hicky, Thomas Lilley, Edmund Hawe
John Morgan and Manuel Lopez.

A communication from Colonel Philem
Thomas was received, and ordered to be en
tered on the journal, in the following words.

" Head Quarters Fort of Baton Rouge Sept. 24th
1810. To the Honorable John Rhea Pre-
sident of the Convention,

Sir In obedience to the order of the Convention
bearing date the 22d Inst. I directed Major
Johnson to assemble such of the Cavalry

as might be ready at hand, and march immediately for the fort of Baton Rouge. I then proceeded to Springfield where I found forty four of the Grenadier company, commanded by Col. Ballenger waiting the orders of the Convention. At one O'Clock on the morning of the 23d we joined Major Johnston and Capt. Griffith with twenty one of the Bayou Sarah Cavalry; and five or six other patriotic Gentlemen joined us on our march. at four O'clock the same morning we made the attack. My orders were not to fire till we received a shot from the Garrison, and to cry out in french and English Ground your arms and you shall not be hurt. This order was strictly attended to by the volunteers, till we received a discharge of musketry from the guard house where the Governor was stationed, which was briskly returned by the volunteers. We received no damage on our part, of the Governor's troops Lieutenant Louis Grand Pré was mortally wounded. Lieutenant J. B. Metzenger commandant of Artillery was also wounded one private was killed, and four badly wounded. We took twenty one prisoners among whom is Col. Delafsus, the rest of the garrison escaped by flight. The Stores

magazines &c found in the Garrison have been
reported to you by James Neilson Esqr ap-
pointed for that purpose. The various and
complicated duties devolving on me from
my peculiar situations forbid a more minute
detail. The firmness and moderation
of the volunteers who made the attack was
fully equal to that of the best disciplined
troops - whole companies are flocking to
our standard daily, and the harmony and
patriotism prevailing in the Garrison
must be highly gratifying to every friend
of his country. accept Sir for yourself
and your body assurances of my high
esteem and regard, Philemon Thomas
Commander in Chief of the port of Baton
Rouge and its dependencies" —

On motion Resolved that the thanks of this C
vention be presented to Colonel Philem
Thomas commanding the voluteers of
Francisville and Springfield, and to the offi
cers and men under his command for their
gallant conduct, in taking possession of the
port of Baton Rouge and of the Archives of
this Jurisdiction on the morning of the 23d
Instant, agreable to our order of the 22d
and that Messrs John H. Johnson and John
Mills be a Committee to wait upon the said

commanding officer and deliver to him a copy of this Resolution.—

An address received from the officers and volunteers occupying the fort of Baton Rouge is ordered to be inserted on the Journal, which said address is in the following words

» To the Honorable the Representatives of the free people of West Florida in Convention assembled. The Volunteers now occupying the Fort of Baton Rouge are highly gratified at the presence of your honorable body, whom we recognise as the legitimate organs of the Sovereign people — We acknowledge your honors as the rulers of the country, we acknowledge no others unless they derive their authority from you.— We have on a former occasion expressed our confidence and tendered you our support, and recent events have no doubt fully proved the reality of our professions. And we again in the most solemn manner, on the honor of Soldiers renew that pledge. Peace is desireable to all on honorable and safe principles; but when goaded by oppression, borne down by Subaltern tyrants insulted and betrayed, and an infernal machine at work to rivet on us eternal chains — we flew to arms in obedience to your orders, and we trust your honorable body will never allow the sword to be sheathed, till the work of Regeneration be complete, and the rights liberty & property of our citizens secured by a free repre-sen-

-tative Government and equal laws - (Signed)
Philemon Thomas Col. Commandt. William
Kirkland Colo Benjn. D. Thomas Brigade In-
spector, John Ballenger Capt. in behalf of
himself and company, Robt McCausland
Mayr, Robert Young Mayor, Lewelly[illegible] C.
Griffith Capt. of Dragoons for self & company.
L. V. Foelkel Capt. for self and 3/4 Company
David T. W. Cook Capt. p.t. 3d Regt of Infantry.
John Dorch Capt. p.t. 3d Regt of Infantry.
M.L. Haynie Surgeon General for the Sur-
gical department and Commander of the
Provost Guard."

On motion Resolved that the Convention do now
wait upon the said officers and volunteers in
a body to deliver a reply to the foregoing addr
Whereupon the said troops being assembled
the port of Baton Rouge, and the Convent
being there also present, the following addr
was read agreable to the foregoing resol

On motion it is ordered that a proclamation be issued to the inhabitants of this jurisdiction in the following terms. viz

" By the Representatives of the people of the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge in Convention assembled a Proclamation.

To provide for the public safety and secure the peace and prosperity of the inhabitants has been our sole object since our first meeting agreable to your commands. Being unexpectedly called to act for you at a time of general anxiety, without experience in matters of so much importance, and without a perfect knowledge of your interests or wishes we proceeded to the discharge of the duties enjoined upon us with diffidence, and

embarrassment. We sought to obtain a redress of grievances which we believed to be most generally complained of, and to remedy the evils which appeared to endanger the existence and safety of the province without making unnecessary innovations. We considered that sentiments of loyalty and attachment to the mother country would ever be maintained by our constituents, while any probability remained of receiving protection from her for their lives and property. The ordinance of the 22d of August will exhibit to the world a proof that such sentiments were fondly cherished and entertained by us, and that the first magistrate of this department of the government, at that time concurred with us in establishing that ordinance to have the force and authority of law within this jurisdiction until the decision of the Captain general of the Island of Cuba thereon should be made known. Since that time we have had son to doubt the fidelity of Mr Delaspu He has acted and Spoken in a manner which has destroyed our confidence in him, and under such circumstances, we consider ourselves bound by every consideration of duty, as well as regard for the peace of the country to wrest from him the authority with which he was vested, and put it out of his power to bring on us the dreadful calamities of civil discord, by raising and arming some of the inhabitants in opposition to the

measures which had been solemnly sanctioned by himself— We lament that his sanguinary disposition has caused some effusion of blood by commanding a vain resistence to be made to the brave volunteers, who took possession of this port agreable to our instructions on the morning of the 23d Instant. But it will not be in his power any longer to vex the inhabitants either by a corrupt administration of our laws or by exciting dissentions among us. We congratulate our constituents on this fortunate event, and invite them to join in harmony to support the measures which are intended for the happiness and prosperity of the country. we have no other object, but to secure the happiness of all as far as our powers extend, and for this purpose it is necessary that we should be informed of the sentiments and wishes of all. Let every District and settlement without delay send to us, besides their deputies if they think proper, as many other persons as they may choose, in whom they can have confidence, to confer with us freely, and make known the terms on which we can unite to establish some permanent regulations to secure the peace, liberty and prosperity of our country— Baton Rouge Sept.r 25th 1810."

On motion it is ordered that Mr Edmund Flowers a member of this Convention be deputed

to visit the inhabitants of the District of St Helena to endeavor to remove any discontent, which may have been excited among those inhabetants by misrepresentations of the proceedings of this Convention or otherwise, and that he be the bearer of an address to them in the following terms.

"Baton Rouge September 25th 1810—

The Representatives of the people of the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge in Convention assembled. To the Inhabitants of St Helena & St Ferdinand.

Friends and Brethren, the unhappy misunderstanding and distrusts which seem to keep you at a distance from us, and still more the extraordinary crisis at present produced, by the weakness and duplicity of a chief magistrate who encouraged and for some time professed to support a system of self-preservation and government among us, having solely in view the happiness and security of this our beloved country, call at the present moment, for a prompt, free and candid interchange of sentiments, feelings and wishes of the people, to the end that the most speedy and effectual measures may be adopted to restore confidence, preserve peace and re-establish harmony— We therefore the Representatives of your's have deputed our Colleague Edmund Hawes a man of known integrity and moderation, connected among and known to many of the respectable Inhabitants of your Districts, to visit you, and in the names of our constituents, to invite you to come no time in

deputies from among yourselves. such number of persons as you shall judge proper besides your delegates to come and confer with us. and expose the causes and sources of your dissatisfaction — We must not, cannot shed each other's blood — We owe it to God and to the safety and happiness of our wives and children, by all means in our power to avert the calamities & mischiefs which must unavoidably result from further jarrings and jealousies between one District and another — by in the ordinances enacted by us, and approved by your own Representatives as well as the Governor, you perceive sources of grievance or compleint, we conjure you through your deputies, to make those grievances known, and consistent with the duties we owe to our constituents there is no sacrifice we will not make, save that of character and a determination not to be intimidated by the intreaques of designing and ambitious men, to unite you with us in the bond of union, peace and good Government — But we cannot consent to abandon the good of our common country, because through the artifices of a corrupt Governor, suspicions may have been excited among you of the purity of our intentions. The cause of each individual of this Jurisdiction of whatever political or religious opinions he may be, from whatever motives he may have sought an asylum among us is the cause of us all, and in this view we are ready to pledge with you our lives & fortunes, that no one among us shall hereafter be disturbed in the equal enjoyment of the rights & blessings to which we are equally entitled, and which may be secured to us under any changes in the great political world with respect to us, if we do not disgrace & ruin ourselves by civil dissentions

The Convention then adjourned until tomorrow morning
And Hale sworn.

Wednesday Sept.r 26th

The Convention met according to adjournment pre-
sent Mess.rs John Rhea, John H. Johnson, William
Barrow, John Mills, Philip Nicky, Thomas
Lilley, Manuel Lopez, Edmund Mavis, John
Morgan, and William Spiller.

On motion Resolved that this Convention do
now declare the several Districts composing
the Territory of West Florida to be a free and
independent State — Whereupon the fol-
lowing form of a Declaration was proposed
and seconded viz —

" By the Representatives of the people of
West Florida in Convention assembled a
Declaration — It is known to the world
with how much fidelity the good people of
this Territory have professed and maintained
allegiance to their legitimate Sovereign, w
any hope remained of receiving from him p
tection for their property and lives. Without
making any unnecessary innovation in th
established principles of the Government, e
had voluntarily adopted certain regulati-
ons in concert with our first magistrate, for
the express purpose of preserving this Territory
and shewing our attachment to the Govern-
ment which had heretofore protected us.
This compact which was entered into with
good faith on our part will forever remain
an honorable testimony of our upright inten-
tions, and inviolable fidelity to our King and

parent country, while so much as a shadow of legi=
timate authority remained to be exercised over us.
We sought only a speedy remedy for such evils as
seemed to endanger our existence and prosperi=
ty, and were encouraged by our Governor with
solemn promises of assistance and co-opera=
tion. But those measures which were intend=
ed for our preservation, he has endeavored
to pervert into an engine of destruction, by
encouraging in the most perfidious manner,
the violation of the ordinances sanctioned
and established by himself as the law of the
land. — Being thus left without any hope
of protection from the mother country, be=
trayed by a magistrate, whose duty it was
to have provided for the safety and tranqui=
lity of the people and Government commit=
ted to his charge, and exposed to all the
evils of a state of anarchy, which we have
so long endeavored to avert, it becomes
our duty to provide for our own security
as a free and independent ~~State~~ absolved
from all allegiance to a Government which
no longer protects us. — We therefore the
Representatives aforesaid, appealing to the
Supreme ruler of the world for the rectitude
of our intentions, do solemnly publish and
declare the several Districts composing
this Territory of West Florida to be a free
and independent State, and that they have
a right to institute for themselves such

form of Government, as they may think conducive to their safety and happiness - to form treaties - to establish commerce - to provide for their common defence, and do all acts which may of right be done by a Sovereign and independent Nation, - at the same time declaring all acts within the said Territory of West Florida after this date of any authorities or Tribunal not deriving their powers from the people, agreable to the provisions established by this Convention to be null and void - and calling upon all foreign nations to respect this our declaration, acknowledging our independence, and giving us such aid as may be consistent with the laws and usages of Nations.

This Declaration made in Convention at the town of Baton Rouge on the twenty sixth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten, we the Representatives aforesaid in the name and on behalf of our constituents, do solemnly pledge ourselves to support, with our lives and fortunes.

(Signed) John H. Johnson, John Mills, Edmund Hawes, John Morgan, Thos. Lilley, William Spiller, Phillip Hicky, William Barrow, John Rhea President - By order of the Convention And. Steil Secry"

And the same being read was agreed to by

all the members whose signatures are affixed thereto, and being read publicly in presence of the officers and volunteers occupying the fort of Baton Rouge is ordered to be published in the several Districts of this Commonwealth without delay. —

On motion Resolved that a proclamation be addressed to the Inhabitants of this Commonwealth in the following terms.

"By the Representatives of the people of the Commonwealth of Florida a Proclamation. — The several Districts of the Territory of West-Florida having been declared a free and independent State, by a Solemn act of this Convention made and published this day - we hasten to congratulate our fellow-citizens on this fortunate event, and to assure them that nothing shall be wanting on our part, in order to secure to our constituents and our country the blessings of liberty and equal rights, and to establish those rights on the most permanent foundation. In the meantime the laws heretofore observed in the administration of Justice and determining the right of property remain in full force, as far as the situation of the country will permit. The ordinances and resolutions adopted by the Convention with the concurrence of the Governor on the 22d day of August last, are

considered as Law agreable to the proclamation of that date, excepting only that the powers vested in the Governor by that ordinance, will be exercised by this Convention for the time being, and until some permanent regulations be made for the better Government of this Commonwealth — Baton Rouge Septr 26th 1810 By order of the Convention (signed) John Rhea President.

The Convention then adjourned until Tomorrow morning at 9 o'Clock A.M.

And. Steele Secry

John Rhea President

Thursday Septr 27th

The Convention met according to adjournment present Mssrs John Rhea, John H. Johnson William Barrow, John Mills. Philip Hicky Manuel Lopez, William Spiller, and John W. Leonard —

Mr Lopez having informed the Convention that no election for an Alcalde had been held at the town of Baton Rouge according to the provisions of the ordinance of this Convention of the 22d of August last, on motion it is ordered that an election be held for the said officer at the house of Mr Antonio Grafs in the said town on Friday next the 28th Instant, to be conducted by Mr Grafs, and that a return be made to this Convention of the name

of the person so elected without delay.—

On motion it is ordered that the inhabitants of the Division entitled to vote at the said election be notified of the forgoing order by proclamation, which said proclamation was issued accordingly —

On motion it is ordered that the officer commissioned as Colonel Commandant of the Militia of the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge, be the Commanding officer of all the Militia of this Commonwealth with the title of Brigadier General.

The Convention then adjourned until tommorrow morning at 9 o'Clock.

And. Stuth secry

John Rhea Presidt

Friday Sept. 28th

The Convention met according to adjournment present the same members as yesterday and Mr Benjamin D. Williams.

On motion it is ordered that a Copy of the Declaration of the Independence of this Commonwealth, made by this Convention on the 26th Instant, be sent to his Excellency David Holmes Governor of the Mississippi Territory, together with an address in the following terms.—

"

The Convention of the State of Florida

To his Excellency David Holmes governor

of the Mississippi Territory

Sir We the Delegates of the people of this

State have the honor to enclose to you

an official copy of their act of Independ-

ence, requesting that it may be forthwith

transmitted by you to the President of the

United States, with the expression of their

most confident and most ardent hope

that it may accord with the policy of

the Government, as it does with the safety

and happiness of the people of the United

States to take the present Government and

people of this State under their immedia-

te and special protection, as an in-

tegral and inalienable portion of the

United States. The Convention and their

constituents of the State of Florida rest

in the firm persuasion that the blood

which flows in the veins of their consti-

tuents, will remind the Government and

people of the United States, that they

are their children, that they have been

acknowledged as such by the most so-

lemn acts of the Congress of the United

States, and that so long as Independence

and the rights of man shall be main-

tained and cherished by the American

Union the good people of this State

cannot be abandoned or exposed

to the invasion violence or force of any foreign or domestic foe.

The Convention beg you to receive for yourself and to assure the President of their high respect and consideration!!

On motion Resolved that Messrs Robert Percy, William Kirkland and William Spiller be authorised and required to make a complete inventory of all the public property, within the port of Baton Rouge and the vicinity thereof which has been taken in charge by the Volunteers under the command of General Philemon Thomas agreable to the orders of this Convention - That the said inventory be made in presence of Mr. Delassus late Governor of this Jurisdiction, and that Mr Francis Perault be requested to attend the said Gentlemen as Interpreter while employed in this service.

The Convention then adjourned until tomorrow morning 9 O'Clock.

And. Steele Secry

John Rhea President

Saturday Sept.r 29th

The Convention met according to adjournment present the same members as yesterday.

On motion Resolved that all the inhabitants of this District, from the Bayou Manchac

to the Devil's swamp be requested to furnish their able-bodied negroe-men for two days, to make repairs immediately necessary to place the port of Baton Rouge in a state of defence — The said negroes to be furnished with provisions at the publick expence during the time they may be employed in the said service. The necessary implements such as axes hoes spades carts and oxen to be furnished by the said inhabitants — Col. William Kirkland is hereby authorised to communicate this request to the said inhabitants, employing such persons as he may think proper in this service, which he is required to execute without delay. →

The following address is received from the officers commanding in the port of Baton Rouge

" Head Quarters port of Baton Rouge Septr 29th 1810.

To the Honorable the Convention of West-Florida in Baton Rouge assembled.

The officers now commanding in the said port, convened by order of the Commander in chief to take into consideration the expediency of a Tanchepaho campaign, unanimously agree, that in their opinion prompt and efficient measures should be taken to restore tranquility in the District of St Helena. The officers and troops

are ready to serve you, and shall wait for your orders on that occasion. We would only suggest to your honors, that the Commandant of the Detachment should be furnished with powers to do any act that in his opinion will restore order, on principles consistent with the honor and independence of the country." &c

Whereupon it is ordered that a detachment of Volunteers under the command of Brigadier General Thomas be sent into the said District of St Helena for the purpose expressed in the foregoing address, and that the said commanding Officer be furnished with a copy of the Declaration of the Independence of this Commonwealth, and an address from this Convention to be by him made known to the inhabitants of the said District.

The Convention adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. &c,

And. Stuart Secry

John Rhea Presidt

Sunday Sept. 30th

The Convention met according to adjournment present the same members as yesterday except Mr. John N. Johnson.

On motion Resolved that Instructions in writing be made and delivered to General Philemon Thomas agreable to the Resolution of yesterday, together with an address to the inhabitants of the District of St. Helena. Whereupon it is

proposed to deliver to the said officers Instructions in the following terms

"To Philemon Thomas Brigadier General Commanding the Militia of the Common= wealth of Florida.

Sir The Convention of Representatives of this Commonwealth being informed that some of the inhabitants of the eastern Districts have shewn a disposition to counteract the measures which have been established for securing the liberty and prosperity of this Commonwealth, it is deemed expedient to send into those districts a detach= ment of the volunteers under your command, for the purpose of obtaining a fair and unequi= vocal expression of the public sentiment in that quarter, and of restoring tranquility by con= vincing the disaffected that they cannot trample upon the laws of our country with impunity.— You will command in person the detachment destined for this service.— As you are fully in= formed of our views and wishes, and as your movements must be governed in a great measure by the disposition which you may find to prevail among the inhabitants, we have determined to entrust you in a great meature with discretionary powers. You will however pursue uniformly as far as you may think prudent and practicable conciliatory and pacific measures; taking every opportunity of informing the people of our dis= position towards them, and of the object which we have in view, for the benefit of

the country, and all its inhabitants.— For this pur=
pose you will make use of the proclamation
sent herewith, with such explanations as
you may think proper to give from time to
time according to circumstances.— You will
resort to force chiefly for the purpose of secur=
ing the designing and unprincipled men who
have attempted to seduce and mislead those
inhabitants.— Having too much reason to sus=
pect that one of the members of our body, and one
of the Judges of our Superior Court, William
Cooper and Shepherd Brown may be of this
number, you will take all prudent and pro=
per measures to take them into your custody,
and bring them to answer to us the charges,
which may be exhibited against them.—
you will carry with you a copy of our decla=
ration of ther Independence of this Common=
wealth, and receive the signatures of such as
may choose to engage to support it.— Using
your own discretion in all cases where the
safety of your party or the tranquility and
peace of the country may in your opinion
require the military force and bravery of your
troops to be employed.— Relying on your
fidelity and good conduct, and wishing you
success in this enterprise for the prosperity
of our common country, we beg you to
accept the assurance of our high consider=
ation !!

And the same being read was unanimously a=
greed to, and ordered to be signed by the Presi=
dent, and delivered to the said Commanding

officer, together with a copy of the declaration of the Independence of this Commonwealth, and an address in the following terms.

"Inhabitants of St. Helena and St. Ferdinand

a Proclamation,

Deceived by a man of no Polour in Politics, by a wretch who will abandon you at the hour of danger, by a man who accepted, meaning to betray, ~~the~~ appointment from the Convention of the ~~Hon~~ highest trust & importance to the People, you will no longer suffer yourselves to be misled by the Pamphleteer Brown; & much less by the Traitor from our own Bosom whose murderous Accomplices, even at an age when the youth of his Beard might have taught the most Criminal, in lieu of the most innocent Captives, to expect mercy, will not allow him to remain quiet. — Cowper! After approving, & sanctioning with his signature all our Ordinances, endeavours with Brown to stir your bloods to anarchy & discord.

The Convention secure in the purity & patriotism of their cause,

as they are in their strength & support from abroad, still address you as Friends & Brethren, whom nature one common interest, & the ties of blood, call all to rally under the glorious star which now presides over their Liberty & Regeneration.

Inhabitants of St. Helena & St. Ferdinand! The Convention call on you for the last time to unbosom yourselves to them! Hear the plain & virtuous Chief, who leads a Band of Heroes, & to learn from him the words of Peace, Union & Independence. — The Convention in the name of their Constituents, & of all the Inhabitants of Florida, ask of you, if Complaints you have, to depute & send to them from among yourselves men of principle & moderation. With such men the Convention will concede all to satisfy you, except Liberty & Independence & good Government, but they will make no Compromise with one of their own Members, and an Officer of their own appointment who betrays them, & seeks to plunge the Country into anarchy & civil War

signed John Rhea
President"

"Baton Rouge
30. Sept. 1810"

The Convention then adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 O'Clock.

And. Steele Secry

John Rhea Pres.

Monday October 1st

The Convention met according to adjournment present the same members as yesterday except Mr Lilley — an motion Resolved that a Copy of the declaration of the Independence of this Commonwealth be sent to the Governor of the Territory of Orleans together with an address of the same tenor with that already directed to the Governor of the Mississippi Territory —

A communication is received from several Physicians and Surgeons now employed in the publick service at the port of Baton Rouge in the following terms —

"Fort of Baton Rouge Sept. 29th 1810

To the Honorable the members of the Convention of West Florida — Gentlemen, we deem it necessary in order to fulfill the declaration of the charter you have been pleased to grant us to form our first meeting on monday next at St Francisville, for the purpose of establishing a medical Society; but in the present situation of our country we feel it a greater duty to attend our posts, and the duties, which we have cheerfully engaged in, than to leave the post, at this critical moment, merely to comply with the injunctions of a Law passed for the purpose of giving a proper respect to our profession and as a preventative of Empiricism. At the same time we wish to have an assurance from your honorable body, that a neglect of this part of our charter shall not do away the same, otherwise we shall feel it our duty to comply with the strict letter of the Law as it now stands. We are &c &c"

(Signed) M. L. Manic, J. C. Williams, W. Lyon, Dudley Avery, Cor.s R. French "

On motion Resolved That the Physicians and Surgeons authorised to form a Medical Society by certain Resolutions of this Convention of the 22d of August last, and required to hold their first meeting on this first day of October, at the town of St Francisville, be authorised to meet at the town of Baton Rouge on the 9th day of this present month, and that the said Resolutions of the 22d of August relative to the said medical Society remain and be established to have the force and authority of Law within this Commonwealth, without any other alteration than that hereby allowed relative to the first meeting of the said Society. ~

The Convention adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 O'Clock.

And. Steele Secry

John Rhea Presidt

Note by Tuesday October 2d

The Convention met according to adjournment present Messrs John Rhea William Barrow John Mills, Philip Nicky Edmund Rawes, John Morgan, William Spiller, John W. Leonard Joseph Thomas, and Thomas Lilly. ~

On motion Resolved that some person be nominated and vested with full powers by this Convention as an envoy to the Government of the United States to be immediately dispatched to make such arrangements with that Government, as he may think proper for the safety, prosperity and preservation of this Commonwealth, as an Independent State or an

Note by Tempter

integral part of the United States.

An motion Resolved that a loan of thirty thousand Dollars be negociated for on the part of this Convention in the City of New Orleans or elsewhere, for the purpose of defraying the public expences of this Government, and that John Rhea, John W. Leonard and Philip Hicky be a Committie to take into consideration and report to this Convention, the best and most proper measures for the attainment of the same. ~

The Convention then adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 o'Clock.

And. Steele Secry John Rhea President

Wednesday October 3d

The Convention met according to adjournment present the same members as yesterday—

A communication is received from Mr Antonio Gras informing that in obedience to the order of this Convention of the 27th Sept. last he had received and examined the votes of the electors for an Acalde of the Division extending from the Mississippi River to Jones' Creek, and from the lower line of Marion's plantation to the Bayou on the plantation of Madam O'Brian and that Valentine Fockel was duely elected having received thirty eight votes. ~

The Convention then adjourned until Tomorrow morning at 9 o'Clock

And. Steele Secry John Rhea President

Thursday October 4th

The Convention met according to adjournment present the same members as yesterday

On motion Resolved that one hundred and four men be enlisted as private Soldiers in the service of this Commonwealth for the term of six months at five Dollars per month, under the command of such officer or officers as shall be commissioned for that purpose.

On motion Resolved that the said Troops be allowed the same bounty, pay, clothing and rations, and be subject to the same rules and articles of war, as the troops in the regular service of the United States; it being understood and provided that no corporal punishment, shall be inflicted but by the sentence of a Court Martial,

The Convention then adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 O'Clock.

And. Steele Secry John Rhea Presidt

Friday October 5th

The Convention met according to adjournment present Majr. John Rhea, John H. Johnson, William Barrow, John Mills, Philip Hicky, Thomas Lilly, Edmund Hawes, John Morgan, John W. Leonard, William

Spiller, and Joseph Thomas.

A communication from his Excellency David Holmes Governor of the Mississippi Territory to the president of this Convention is received and ordered to be entered on the Journal in the following words.

"Town of Washington 30th Septr 1810

Sir I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th Inst. enclosing a Copy of the Declaration of Independence by the Convention of West Florida, you and your colleagues may rest assured that no time will be lost by me in forwarding these important Documents to the President of the United States — In the mean time let me be early informed of every occurrence that may take place interesting to the Inhabitants of your Government, whether they arise from internal or external sources; I shall leave this place on Thursday next, for the County of Wilkinson — on Saturday I shall be at the General Muster near the Court House, after that day direct your communications to me at this place I have the honor to be with great respect for you and your colleagues your Obt (signed) David Holmes"

on motion Resolved that so much of the ordinance of this Convention of the 22d of August last, as relates to the tax on slaves imported into this commonwealth be repealed, and the same is hereby repealed accordingly. And all persons residing within this commonwealth, or allowed by the said ordinance to obtain permission of residence within the same, be allowed to import and bring into this Commonwealth all slaves belonging to them or which they may have in charge without paying any tax or duty therefor whatever, any thing contained in the said ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding. c—

On motion Resolved that so much of the ordinance of this Convention of the 22d of August last as relates to the tax on lands be amended in such manner that all lands within this Commonwealth be reduced to three classes according to quality, and that lands of the first quality be subject to pay six reals per hundred arpents those of the second quality four reals per hundred Arpents, and those of the third quality two reals per hundred Arpents, and that the several Alcaldes be assessors of the same, each for the division in which he resides; and express the quality of the lands of each person whose taxable property he

is required to return to the Commandant of the District, who shall make his return in the same manner to the Clerk of the Superior Court. And it shall be the duty of the Alcalde aforesaid to make a return of the Lands of non-residents at the same times. and in the same manner. classing them according to their quality, as the Lands of the inhabitants of the county, each for the District in which he resides.

on motion Resolved that Mr John H. Johnson be, and he is hereby nominated and appointed an envoy from this Convention to the Government of the United States of America agreable to the Resolution of the 2d Instant.

The Convention adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 O'Clock. —

And: Studevacy John Rhea President

Saturday October 6th

The Convention met according to adjournment, present the same members as yesterday.

Mr Nicky from the Committee appointed to take into consideration and report to this Convention the best and most proper measures for negociating a Loan for the purpose of defraying the public expences of this Government. Submits the following report.

"Your Committee beg leave to report the fol-

lowing plan as the most certain, efficacious and honorable means of raising any sum of money which may be necessary for the immediate support of the Government That your President be authorised and directed in the name of the Convention and for the use of the people of this Commonwealth to issue Conventional notes for such Sum as the Convention may deem it expedient and necessary at this moment to direct, payable to Order and made redeemable in two equal instalments, bearing an interest of ten per Cent per annum, as follows the first instalment to be paid in twelve months from the time of issuing the said notes, and the last in eighteen months from the same date"

And the same being read was unanimously agreed to - Whereupon on motion it is ordered that the same Committee prepare a sufficient number of Notes in the proper form to be issued for the Sum of Thirty thousand dollars agreable to the Resolution of the 2d Instant.

On motion Resolved that the associate Judges of the Superior Court, the Civil Commandants and Alcaldes within this commonwealth, be authorised to solemnize marriage each within the District in which he resides; causing the parties in all cases to sign a marriage contract in presence of not less than two witnesses of full age besides the said civil officers

and all marriages so solemnised as aforesaid shall be lawful, and have the same effect in law as those solemnised in the usual form - and it is further Resolved that it shall be the duty of the Civil Commandant of each District within this Commonwealth to make and keep in his office a fair and accurate Register of all the marriages solemnised within the District in which he resides by any officer Civil or Ecclesiastical; for which purpose every officer shall return to the Civil Commandant of the District a certificate of every marriage solemnised by him, with the names of the subscribing witnesses within three months after the same shall have been solemnised by him as aforesaid - and it is further Resolved that every officer be entitled to receive the sum of four dollars for the solemnisation of a marriage by him, and every Civil Commandant the sum of one dollar for recording the same as aforesaid. -

On motion Resolved that all French and British Patents for Lands laying within this Commonwealth, which said Lands have been covered by Spanish Patents, shall be void, and shall never be received as evidence of such claims in any Court of Justice within this State). c —.

Whereas Ira C. Kneeland late Deputy Surveyor General of the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge,

has clandestinely left the said Jurisdiction, and carried away all the public papers belonging to his office, to the infinite prejudice, as it is presumed of the good people of this Commonwealth - whereupon on motion of Mr Johnson, seconded by Mr Leonard Resolved that the whole estate, real and personal of the said Ira C. Kneland be sequestered and kept in security until the Convention can investigate the conduct of said Kneland. —

The Convention then adjourned until monday next at 9 o'clock A.M.

And. Steele Secry John Rhea Pres.t

Monday October 8th

The Convention met according to adjournment present Mess.rs John Rhea John H. Johnson, John Mills, William Barrow, Philip Hicky, Thomas Lilley, Edmund Hawes, John Morgan, William Speller, John W. Leonard, and Joseph Thomas. —

An Inventory of the property of Captain Raphael Crocker, late Secretary of the Government for the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge, which property is found within this Commonwealth, is presented by Mr Antonio Gayo made according to an order formerly given by this Convention, which said Inventory is ordered to be filed and preserved with the Records of the Convention. —

on motion Resolved that Mr Abner L. Duncan be appointed an agent for this Convention, for the purpose of negociating a certain number of the notes to be issued agreable to a Resolution of the 6th Instant, in the City of New-orleans, and that the Committee appointed to prepare the said notes be directed to place in his hands a number equal to the sum of dollars requesting him at the same time to undertake the said agency.

On motion of Mr Johnson seconded by Mr Hooky Resolved that, the Spanish yoke being now thrown off, and a fair prospect of establishing our Independence, this Convention do now proceed to form a Constitution for this Commonwealth. &c

By request of Mr Lilley it is ordered to be entered of record that he voted in opposition to the foregoing resolution. &c

On motion Resolved that Messrs John Rhea John H. Johnson and John W. Leonard be a Committee to draft a Constitution for the Government of this Commonwealth and that the said Committee report to this house without unnecessary delay.

The Convention then adjourned until Tommorrow morning at 9 o'Clock.

And. Steele secry, John Rhea Pres.

Tuesday October 9th.

The Convention met according to adjournment, present the same members as yesterday except Mr Barrow—

Shepherd Brown Esquire having appeared and presented himself to answer to this Convention any charges which may be exhibited against him, On motion it is ordered that the said Shepherd Brown be sent to the port of Baton Rouge to be there safely kept until further orders from this Convention — Whereupon the following order was issued accordingly—

"To Brigadier General Thomas Commanding the volunteers now occupying the fort of Baton Rouge

Sir you will receive and take into your custody Shepherd Brown who has delivered himself to the Convention this day and him safely keep in some apartment separate from the other prisoners until further orders. Baton Rouge October 9th 1810. By order of the Convention John Rhea President"

The following communications received from Genral Thomas ordered to be inserted on the Journal viz

"Head Quarters port of Baton Rouge October 9th 1810.

Sir Pursuant to the orders I received from your honour, I commenced my march

for the District of St Helena, on the first day of October, on the third I orped the Amites at Major Curtis's at the head of about four hundred men. I had previously wrote to Michael Jones requesting an interview with him. He met me at Wells's six miles east of the Amite and tendered a proposition for an Union between the several Districts, signed by himself and others — but his conduct was such as to preclude any idea of negociation. However on the same evening he surrendered his men at discretion, and signed the Declaration of Independence. The same evening I dispatched an advanced Guard under Major Johnson of the Cavalry and Major M'Cleland of the Infantry to endeavor by a forced march to surprize Brown and Cooper in their fort at Springfield, but the fort was evacuated ten hours before their arrival. — On the 5th I dispatched a considerable force to Tanchepaho and Chefuncte, under the command of Col. Kimball; From him I have received no dispatches, but expect intelligence soon, which when received will be communicated without delay. I continued at Springfield the 5th & 6th in order to intercept straggling parties of Brown's men and to see & inform the people of the principles & wishes of the Gov-

vention.. Every thing appears tranquil, and the great body of the people really disposed to defend our cause - A company of volunteers is formed at Springfield - They have elected Samuel Baldwin their Captain, which appointment together with the Lieutenants, who may hereafter elected I wish to be confirmed. I returned by way of Brown's plantation and the Spanish settlement - They all appear friendly (signed) Philemon Thomas Brigad.r Genera.l -- "To the honorable President of the Convention"

"To the Honorable John Rhea President of the Convention, Sir The officers having met to take into consideration the nomination of suitable persons to be appointed to the command of the companies proposed by the convention to be enlisted to defend the fort, unanimously agree to recommend John Ballenger as first Captain and David W. Cook as second Captain - Be so good to inform me what pay clothing and rations the troops enlisted are to expect.

Fort of Baton Rouge Oct. 9.th 1810

(signed) Philemon Thomas Brigad.r General."

The following reply to the last of the foregoing communications was ordered to be sent to the said Commanding officer. viz

"To Philemon Thomas Commanding the Volunteers now occupying the fort of Baton Rou

Sir. By a resolution of the Convention of the 4th Instant it is provided that the troops to be enlisted in the service of this Commonwealth be allowed the same bounty pay clothing and rations, and be subject to the same rules and articles of war / as far as the situation of the country will permit / as the regular troops in the service of the United States, it being understood and provided that no corporal punishment be inflicted but by the sentence of a Court Martial. It is intended however to be ordered that one half the said bounty be paid at the time of their enlistment, and the other half at the time of the expiration of their service.

Baton Rouge October 9th 1810

(By order of the Convention

(Signed) John Rhea President"

The Convention adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 O' Clock

John Rhea Pres.t

And. Stuart Secry

Wednesday October 10th

The Convention met according to adjournment, present the same members as yesterday

On motion it is ordered that the departure of the Envoy named by the Convention to the Government of the United States be delayed until some communication be received from that Government

and that an address be forwarded to the Governm
of the United States in the following terms.

" To Hon.ble Robert Smith Secretary of State
of the United States

Sir The Convention of the State of Florida have
already transmitted an official copy of their
act of Independence through his Excellency
Governor Holmes to the President of the Unite
States, accompanied with the expression of
their hope and desire that this Commonwealth
may be immediately acknowledged and pro-
tected by the Government of the United States
as an integral part of the American Union.
On a subject so interesting to the community
ty represented by us, It is necessary that we
should have direct and unequivocal assu-
ances of the views and wishes of the American
Government without delay, since our weak
and unprotected situation will oblige us
to look to some foreign Government for sup-
port, should it be refused to us by the coun-
try which we have considered as our parent
State. We therefore make this direct appeal
through you to the President and General
Government of the American States, to solicit
that immediate protection to which we con-
sider ourselves entitled; and to obtain a
speedy and favorable decision we offer
the following considerations

1st The Government of the United States in
their instructions to the Envoys extraordinary

at Paris in March 1806 authorised the purchase of East Florida, directing them at the same time to engage France to intercede with the Cabinet of Spain to relinquish any claim to the Territory which now forms this Commonwealth.

2nd In all diplomatic correspondence with American Ministers abroad, the Government of the United States have spoken of W. Florida as a part of the Louisiana cession. They have legislated for the country as a part of their own Territory, and have deferred to take possession of it in expectation that Spain might be induced to relinquish her claim by an amicable negociation.

3d The American Government has already refused to accredit any minister from the Spanish Junta, which body was certainly more legally organised as the Representative of the Sovereignty, than that now called the Regency of Spain; Therefore the United States cannot but regard any force or authority emanating from them with an intention to subjugate us, as they would an invasion of their Territory by a foreign enemy.

4th The emperor of France has invited the Spanish Americans to declare their Independence, rather than remain in subjection to the old Spanish Government, therefore an acknowledgment of our Independence

by the United States could not be complained of by France, or involve the American Government in any contest with that power.

5th Neither can it afford any just cause of complaint to Great Britain, altho' she be the ally of Spain, that the United States should acknowledge and support our Independence, as this measure was necessary to save the country from falling into the hands of the French exiles from the Island of Cuba, and other partizans of Bonaparte, who are the eternal enemies of Great Britain.

Should the United States be induced by these or any other considerations to acknowledge our claim to their protection, as an integral part of their Territory or otherwise, we feel it our duty to claim for our constituents an immediate admission into the Union as an independent State, or as a Territory of the United States, with permission to establish our own form of Government, or to be united with one of the neighboring Territories, or a part of one of them in such manner as to form a State. Should it be thought proper to annex us to one of the neighboring Territories, or a part of one of them, the inhabitants of this Commonwealth would prefer being annexed to the Island of Orleans, and in the mean while until a State Government be established, that they should be governed by the ordinances already enacted by this Convention, and by their further regulations hereafter. &c.

"The claim which we have to the soil or unlocated lands within this Commonwealth will not it is presumed be contested by the United States, as they have tacitly acquiesced in the claim of France or Spain for seven years, and the restrictions of the several embargo and non intercourse laws might fairly be construed if not as a relinquishment of their claim, yet at least sufficient to entitle the people of this Commonwealth (who have wrested the Government and country from Spain at the risk of their lives and fortunes) to all the unlocated lands.

It will strike the American Government that the monies arising from the sale of those lands appropriated as they will be to improving the internal communications of the country opening canals &c will be made to contribute to the convenience and Strength of the federal Union.

To fulfill with good faith our promises and engagements to all the inhabitants of this country, it will be our duty to stipulate for an unqualified pardon for all deserters now residing within this Commonwealth, together with an exemption from further service in the army or navy of the United States.

A loan of 100.000 Dollars is solicited of the American Government, to be reimbursed at 3,649 years from the sales of public lands. This loan may be made by

the Secretary of the Treasury immediately without committing the Government, or making it known to foreign ministers at Washington

In order not to embarrass the Cabinet of the United States, and to receive first through their own confidential agents their wishes and views with respect to us, it is deemed prudent to defer the departure of our Envoy already named who will be dispatched immediately on receiving information that such a measure will meet the approbation of the Government of the United States.

We pray you to accept the assurance of our respect and high consideration".

"Baton Rouge October 10th 1810"

And the same being signed by the President by order of the Convention was sent under cover directed to his Excellency the Governor of the Mississippi Territory, accompanied with an address in the following terms—

"Baton Rouge, October 10th 1810—

To His Excellency David Holmes Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

Sir,

Your letter of the 30th Ultimo addressed to the President of this Convention has been received and is considered as a proof of your friendly disposition to the cause in which we are engaged— Agreable to your request of keeping vacant in advance of every thing interesting to us, we leave

the honor now to inform your Excellency that the detachment of volunteers sent by us into the District of St Helena have returned with the intelligence that the inhabitants in that quarter are very generally disposed to unite with us in supporting the independence of this Commonwealth. They have promised obedience to our ordinances and officers — and some of their leaders have presented themselves to us with assurances of their determination to support our measures — We have therefore the most flattering prospect of support from all the inhabitants in this part of W. Florida, and have little doubt of obtaining possession of the Forts of Mobile and Pensacola in a short time — Your friendly attention is however still solicited to prevent any interference of the Savages, as we have reason to believe they have been incited to take a part against us. We enclose to you a communication to the Govt of the U. S. relying on your goodness to forward it without delay, accompanied with such observations as you may think proper, and such as may in your opinion obtain for it a favorable reception. We pray you to accept the assurance of our respect and high consideration

By order of the Convention (signed) John Rhea P.t.

On motion Resolved that Gilbert Leonard Esqr be removed from the offices of Civil Commandant for the District of Baton Rouge, and that he be liberated from arrest, all persons who had become responsible for his appearance before this Convention, being discharged from any further responsibility on his account.

On motion Resolved that a Commandant be now appointed for the District of Baton Rouge, and that some proper person be appointed Treasurer for this Commonwealth.

Whereupon the votes being taken for the said offices it appears that George Mather Esqr. is elected Commandant for the District of Baton Rouge and Philip Nicky Esqr Treasurer for the Commonwealth of Florida, and they are accordingly appointed to the said offices respectively. c~

On motion Resolved that any person selling Spirituous liquors to Indians in this State, without having licence from Superior authority so to do, shall forfeit and pay a fine of fifty dollars for the first offence, and his liquors in store shall be confiscated and sold for the benefit of the district — and for every other offence he shall be fined at the discretion of the Court of the District besides a confiscation of the liquors as before stated.

On motion Resolved that the Delegates of the people composing the present Convention or their Committee are the only competent authority representing the State of West Florida, and having a

right to exercise the Legislative and executive powers in all cases, until other Deputies be appointed, and a Distinct executive officer be duly authorised by Law. —

On motion Resolved that the Convention adjourn this afternoon to meet at this place on the first monday of November next, unless sooner called by the President, and that during the recess any three or more of the members be a Committee with full powers to exercise the powers and perform the duties of this Convention — Messrs John H. Johnson. John W. Leonard and Edmund Hawes, being nominated to compose the said Committee, it is procided that after the 22d Instant it shall be composed of Messrs John Mills. William Spiller and Philip Ricky, and in case of the sickness or absence of any member so named, the President may order any other member to supply his place. —

On motion Resolved that for the time being and until it be otherwise provided the following be the form of the oath of allegiance to this Commonwealth viz "I A.B. do solemnly Swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Commonwealth of West Florida, and that I will make known all treasonable or traiterous practices that may now or hereafter come to my knowledge against the same — So help me God"

The Convention then adjourned to meet agreable to the Resolution of this date.

John Rhea President

And. Steele Secy

Baton Rouge Octob. 24th 1810

The Convention met by Special order of the President, present Mess^rs John Rhea John Mills, William Barrow, Philip Hicky Thomas Lilley, Edmund Hawes, John Morgan, William Spiller, John W. Leonard Benjamin D. Williams and Champney Jenny.

The following certificate being produced is ordered to be filed with the proceeding of this Convention & copied on the Journal.

"By orders received from the Convention of West Florida, through Col. William Spiller for an election to be held in the District of St Ferdinand for two members to be elected to represent said District, We therefore do certify that said election was sufficiently notified, and that Abner Bickham dent^r and Champ^ney Jenny were unanimously elected, Given under our hands, Sept^r 29th 1810. (Signed) Wm Laurence, Isaac Erwin Superintenders of the Election."

Mr Mills from the Committee vested with full powers by the Convention on the 10th inst. reported the proceedings of the said Committee as follows.

Baton Rouge October 10th 1810

By the Committee of the Convention vested with full powers by that body. Resolved that two persons of confidence be commissioned one as Colonel and the other a Major of the Melitia of this Commonwealth for the District beyond the former Jurisdictional limits of the Government of Baton Rouge, and that they be instructed to repair to the said District without delay to use all proper and prudent measures for the purpose of establishing the flag of this Commonwealth within the same.

Whereupon on motion Resolved that Reuben Kemper Esqr be commissioned as Colonel and Joseph White Esqr Major in the Service of this Commonwealth agreable to the foregoing Resolution, and that the said Reuben Kemper be authorized to draw any Sums of money from the public Treasury to the amount of Two thousand Dollars to be employed at his discretion for the purpose of accomplishing the objects of his mission.

Baton Rouge October 11th

By the Committee of the Convention of the State of Florida Resolved that instructions & powers be given to Col. Reuben Kemper in the following Terms. viz

"To Col. Reuben Kemper

Sir The Convention of this Commonwealth wishing to know the disposition and strength

of the inhabitants on the Mobile and in other Districts beyond the former limits of the jurisdiction of Baton Rouge, and to induce them by all prudent and practicable means to support the Independence of this Commonwealth, have deputed, and do by these presents authorise you in conjunction with Major Joseph White to visit the said inhabitants and enter into any treaty or engagement with them which may in your opinion be conducive to the above mentioned object, and to the general advantage of the country. You are authorised to embody and command any number of volunteers which you may think necessary for the purpose of taking possession of any fortification in that part of West Florida, but you are on all occasions to observe and use the most conciliatory conduct towards the inhabitants, and inform them particularly of our disposition and wishes towards them and of the object which we have in view for the benefit of the Country and all its inhabitants, for this purpose you will make public the address and declaration which will be delivered to you herewith, together with such explanations as you may think proper from time to time according to circumstances - you will avoid every movement which might occasion any unnecessary effusion of blood - and give us early intelligence if you should find the inhabitants generally hostile to our views

and especially if any armed force should be in motion towards this place or any of the neighboring districts. Should you succeed in establishing the authority of this Convention in any settlement or District of importance you are hereby authorised & proceed without delay to organize the Militia thereof according to your own Judgment, conforming as near as may be to the ordinance of this Convention on that subject - and to distribute public arms and military Stores according to your discretion. Should you obtain possession of any - You will in all cases require of the Militia so organized to subscribe our declaration of Independence and take an oath of fidelity to the Commonwealth of Florida -

Relying on your fidelity and good conduct, and wishing you success in this enterprize for the prosperity of our country we beg you to accept the assurance of our respect and high consideration

By order of the Committee of the Convention vested with full powers

Baton Rouge October 11th 1810

Signed John H. Johnson Chn

With the foregoing instructions were also delivered to the said Col. Kemper a Copy of the Declaration of the Independence of this State, an address to the Inhabitants of West Florida beyond the

former Jurisdictional limits of the Government of Baton Rouge and a letter of credit in the following terms viz

"Col. Reuben Kemper is hereby authorized to give orders for the payment of any sums of money to the amount of two thousand dollars addressed to the Convention of W. Florida which will be duely honored and paid when presented at this place Baton Rouge October 11th 1810. By order of the Convention. (Signed) John M. Johnson Chairman of the Committee of the Convention" —

Baton Rouge October 15th 1810

By the Committee of the Convention of Florida vested with full powers by that body It is ordered that no Spirituous or intoxicating liquors shall be sold to any non-commissioned or private Soldier stationed in the port of Baton Rouge or enlisted in the regular service under the Convention, and every person violating this order shall be subject to a fine of twenty dollars, and emprisoned for the term of twenty days for the first offence, on conviction thereof before any Alcalde or other civil magistrate, and for every future offence, the same fine and emprisonment, with a confiscation of all the liquors which he may have in store

one half of all such fines to be paid to any person who shall sue for the same; and the other half to the Commandant for the use of the District. And it is further ordained that any non-commissioned officer or Soldier being found drinking any kind of intoxicating liquors in the house of any inhabitant, shall be considered sufficient evidence that such liquors were sold by such inhabitant contrary to the provisions of this ordinance."

"By the Committee of the Convention of Florida vested with full powers by that body it is ordained that during the existence of the present military establishment when any Captain in the regular Service under the Convention shall be charged with any offence which would subject him to a trial by a Court Martial according to the Rules and Articles of war, the said Charges shall be presented to the Commanding officer of the Fort, or if he be implicated thereby to the Convention or their Committee, who shall order a Court of enquiry composed of not less than three commissioned officers in the regular Service to hear the testimony which may be produced in support of the said charges - The said Court of enquiry shall be governed by the Rules and Articles of war relative to Courts of Enquiry in other cases, and having received all the testimony as aforesaid shall present it in writing to the Convention

who shall thereupon appoint a Committee of their own body to decide upon the case, and pronounce such judgment as they may think proper, which judgment shall be conclusive and final".

"Whereas the public service requires that some person be appointed to furnish the Troops enlisted in the regular service of this Commonwealth with the necessary clothing, rations and military Stores, The Committee of the Convention vested with full powers for that purpose, do hereby nominate and appoint James Neilson Esqr as the public agent for the purposes above stated, and he is hereby commissioned and required to perform the duties of Quarter Master, Commissary and military agent for the said regular troops for the term of six months - for which purpose the necessary funds being furnished to him by the Commonwealth, he shall receive as a compensation for his personal services the sum of seven hundred dollars".

"On motion Resolved that application be made to the military agent or Commanding officer of the Troops of the United States in the vicinity of Washington in the Mississippi Territory to obtain by way of loan or otherwise the clothing & military Stores which may be necessary for the immediate use of the Troops enlisted in the service of this Commonwealth or a part thereof; And that James Neilson Esqr be vested with full powers on the part of the Convention of this State to make any engagment with the military agent or commanding officer aforesaid for the attainment of that object".

"Baton Rouge October 18th

By the Committee of the Convention acted with full powers by that body. Resolved that the following pieces of Ordinance, and military Stores being transported from the port of Baton Rouge to St Francisville, and placed at the disposal of the Executive of this Commonwealth towit, One brass field piece 4tts four Iron Do 4tts two Iron Do 6tts six Swivels, One thousand pounds of powder, four thousand pounds of Ounce balls. One hundred balls for each piece of Ordenance, fifty charges of grape shot for Do together with the apparatus necessary for exercising the same.

Whereupon Captain John Ballenger was ordered to send the said Ordinance and military Stores with a sufficient guard to the mouth of Bayou Sarah, employing for that purpose any boat of a suitable burthen, which he might procure, and cause the same to be delivered to Capt. Amos Webb resident merchat of that place &c.

"Baton Rouge October 20th 1810

Whereas the first Session of the District Court for the District of Baton Rouge has not been commenced on the third monday of this present month agreable to the ordinance of the 22 of August last, Be it therefore ordained by the Committee of the Convention vested with full powers for that purpose, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same that the first Session of the

said District Court be held on monday next, the 22d Instant, and continued by adjournments from day to day, until the business requiring the attention of said Court be finished. Sundays excepted. By order of the Committee of Convention

(Signed) John H. Johnson Chairman

On motion Resolved that repairs be made to the arms and accoutrements in the fort of Baton Rouge, and also some temporary repairs to the said Fort, and that an order be issued to the Commanding officer of the said Fort to that effect. Whereupon the following order was issued accordingly.

" To Captain John Ballinger Commandant of the Fort of Baton Rouge

Sir you are requested to employ proper workmen to repair the muskets in the Garrison, as also to have the Cartouch boxes repaired which may be found there, and to have several hundred new ones made, as also to have bits put to the bayonets scabbards, as well as to make necessary and temporary repairs to the fort: for all which work you will draw on the Executive of this Government, from time to time for the necessary sums of money — By order of the Committee of the Convention, Signed John H. Johnson Chairman "

"Baton Rouge 20th October 1810 "

And the said report being read was unanimously agreed to. — When the Convention adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 Oclock

And: Stuckey John Rhea P.

Thursday October 25th

The Convention met according to adjournment present the same members as yesterday

Mr. Leonard from the Committee appointed to draft a Constitution for the Government of this Commonwealth reported a Constitution or Form of Government drafted by the said Committee agreable to the said resolution, which was read the first time, and after several amendments proposed and agreed to, was ordered to a second reading on tomorrow

On motion Resolved that Mssrs John Mills, John H. Johnson, Philip Nicky, John Morgan, and William Barrow be a Committee in conjunction with a council of the principal officers of the Militia and the regular service, to form the plan of an expedition for the purpose of taking possession of the ports of Mobile and Pensacola, and that the said Committee report without unnecessary delay.

The Convention then adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 O'Clock.

Attd. Sluter Secy John Rice President

Friday October 26th

The Convention met according to adjournment present the same members as yesterday with Mssrs John H. Johnson and Joseph Thomas. The Constitution proposed for the State of Florida was read a second time, and after several an

mendments proposed and ~~adopted~~ the same was ordered to a third reading tomorrow.

On motion of Mr Johnson seconded by Mr Terry it is ordered that all state prisoners be kept in confinement, until the executive authority of the state shall notify to the Courts of the Districts in which they can be tried, that their trysls can be commenced with safety to the state. &c

The Convention then adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

And. Steele Secy John Rhea Presidt

Saturday October 27th

The Convention met according to adjournment present the same number as yesterday, when the Constitution or form of Government of the State of Florida being read the third time was unanimously approved and adopted, and being signed by all the members present is ordered to be published without delay, and the original to be preserved with the proceedings of this Convention. &c

The Convention then adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

And. Steele Secy John Rhea Presidt

Sunday October 28th

The Convention met according to adjournment, present the same members as yesterday

On motion Resolved that the Committee appointed to form a plan of an expedition against the ports of Mobile and Pensacola, be also a standing Committee of this Convention during its recess with full powers to do all acts which the safety and prosperity of the State may in their opinion require until the meeting of the General Assembly agreable to the provisions of the Constitution of this State, any three or more of them to form a Committee, and that they be authorised to call a meeting of this Convention at any time when they may think it expedient previous to the said meeting of the General Assembly, when the powers of this Convention will cease and determine

The Convention then adjourned

Attest Stith Lacy

John Rhea President

By the Representatives of the People of the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge in convention assembled

A Proclamation

To provide for the public safety and secure the peace and prosperity of the inhabitants, has been our sole object, since our first meeting; agreeable to your Commands. Being unexpectedly called to act for you, at a time of general anxiety, without experience in matters of so much importance, and without a perfect knowledge of your interests or wishes — we proceed to the discharge of ~~the~~ duties enjoined upon us with diffidence and embarrassment. We sought to obtain a redress of the grievances, which we believe to be ~~the~~ most generally complained of, and to remedy the evils which appeared to endanger the existance and safety of the province without making unnecessary innovations. We consider that sentiments of loyalty and attachments to the mother country would ever be maintained by our Constituents while any probability remained of receiving protection from her for their lives and property.

The ordonnance of the 21st of August

exhibit to the world a proof that such sentiments were fondly cherished, and entertained by us and that the first Magestrate of this department of the Government at that time concurred with us in establishing that ordinance to have the force and authority of law within this Jurisdiction until the decision of the Capt. General of the Island of Cuba thereon should be made known. Since that time we have had reason to doubt the fidelity of Mr. Delafuss. He has acted ~~certain~~ & spoken in a manner which has destroyed our confidence in him, And under such circumstances we consider ourselves bound by every consideration of duty as well as regard for the peace of the Country, to arrest from him the authority With which he was vested, and put it out of his power to bring on us the dreadfull calamities of Civil ~~War~~ discord, by raising & arming some of the inhabitants in opposition to the measures which had been solemnly sanctioned by himself. We lament that his sanguinary disposition has caused some effusion of blood by commanding a vain resistance to be made to the brave volenteers who took possession of this fort agreeable to our ~~orders~~ instructions, on the morning of the 23d. Instant — But it will not be in his power any longer to abuse the Inhabitants either by a corrupt administration of

laws, or by exciting dessention among us. we
Congratulate our Constituents on this fortunate
Event, and invite them to join in harmony to
support the measures, which are intended for the
happiness and prosperity of the Country. We
have no other object, but to secure the happiness
of all as far as our powers extend, and
for this purpose it is necessary that we should
be informed of the sentiments & wishes of all
Let every District & Settlement without delay send
to us, besides their deputies if they think proper
as many other persons as they may ~~please~~
~~to appoint~~ choose in whom they can confide
to Confer with us freely and make the terms
on which we can unite to establish Some
permanent regulations to secure the peace
liberty. and prosperity of our Country

Baton Rouge 25th Sept. 1810

By the Representatives of the People of the Jurisdiction of Baton Rouge in Convention assembled

A Proclamation

To provide for the Public Safety and secure the peace & prosperity of the inhabitants, has been our sole object, since our first meeting agreeable to your commands. Being unexpectedly called to act for you at a time of general anxiety, without experience in matters of so much importance, and without a perfect knowledge of your interests or wishes— We proceeded to the discharge of the duties enjoined upon us with diffidence and embarrassment. We sought to obtain a redress of grievances, which we believe to be most generally complained of, and to remedy the evils, which appeared to endanger the existence and safety of the province Without making unnecessary innovations. We consider that declarations of loyalty & attachment

ments to the mother Country would ever be maintained by our Constituents while any probability remained of receiving protection from her for their lives and property.— The ordinance of the 22d of August will exhibit to the world a proof that such sentiments were fondly cherished, and entertained by us, and that the first magistrate of this department of the government at that time concerned with us in establishing that ordinance to have the force, and authority of Law within this Jurisdiction until the decision of the Captain General of the Island of Cuba thereon should be made known.

Since that time we have had reason to doubt the fidelity of Mr. Delaser. He has acted and spoken in a manner which has destroyed our confidence in him. and under such circumstances we consider ourselves bound by every consideration of duty as well as regard for the peace of the Country to arrest from him the authority with which he was vested, and put it out of his power to bring on us the dreadful

Calamities of civil discord, by raising & arming some of the inhabitants to oppo=sition to the measures which has been solemnly sanctioned by himself— He lament that his sanguinary dis=position has caused some effusion of blood, by commanding a new resis=tance to be made, to the brave volunteers who took possession of this fortress agree=able to our instructions on the morning of the 23.d instant. But it will not be in his power any longer to abuse the inhabitants either by a corrupt administration of our Laws or by exciting dissentions among ~~the people~~ us. We congratulate our con=stituents on this fortunate event and invite them to join in harmony to support ~~to support~~ the measures, which are intended for the happiness and prosperity of the country, we have no other object but to secure the happiness of all as far as our

our powers extended And for that purpose
it is necessary that we should be informed
of the Sentiments & wishes of all. Let every
District & Settlement without delay send
to us, besides their deputies if they think
proper as many other persons as
they may choose in whom they can
have Confidence to Confer with us freely.
and make known the terms on which
we can unite, to establish some perma
=nent Regulations to secure the peace,
liberty & prosperity of our Country

Baton Rouge Sept. 25th 1810

John Mills

Thos. Gibbs

Wm Barrow

Edmond Hanes

John Morgan

John H. Johnson

The Convention

To Sal.s Chauveau Dr.

1810

Sept.r 30th Delivered Stephen Minter Capt.n of the Artillery, P.t of W.m Rhea's order, Viz.t

1 p.s White Nankeen		$	3.25
10 ells Dimity	@ 50 cts		5.—
1 p.s Blue Nankeen			3.50
1 Sash			7.—
9 ells of Shirting Linen	@ $1.		9.—
2 Ounces Thread	@ 37½ cts		.75
1 doz.e Jetted Buttons			1.25
2 ells Cotton Cambrick	@ $1½		3.—
2 p.rs white Cotton Stockings	@ 187½		3.75
1 pair Fine Shoes			2.50
8 Skains Thread			.25
4½ ells Crown Linen	@ 87½ cts		3.93¾
1 doz.e button moulds			.06¼
1 Gold Epaulet		10.—	$ 53.25

Oct.r 11th 1 half Ream Writing Paper . . . .

del.d D.r Stale as P.d his Receipt . . . 4.—

$ 57.25

The Follow.g Del.d D.r Thereto P.r W.m Rhea's Order, Viz.t

19¼ ells Purple Dimity	@ $1.50	$ 28.87½	
1 p.s Skains Sew.g Silk	@ 6¼ cts		1.18¾
9 ells White Silk	@ $3		27.—
1 p.s Blue ribbon, 12 ells	@ 18¾ cts	2.25	59.31¼

The Follow.g del.d M.r Scott, belonging to Capt.n Johnson's Troop of Horse,

Sept.r 25th 1 p.s Briddle for Capt.n Griffith $ 3.—

1 do for M.r Scott . . . 3.— 6.—

$ 122.56¼

Received Payment in full

From the Committee of the Convention,

Baton Rouge 13th Oct.r 1810

Sal.s Chauveau

James Chaumont's

acct. (Dr.) paid — $122.56¼

The Convention of Texas

T. W. Fowlkes —— Dr.

Mr. Rhea, 18 Days	board & feed for 2 horses				$45.—
Mr. Mills " 17	do. — do. " do.	for 1 do.			37.—
Mr. Hawes " 15	do. — do. " do.	" 1 do.			30.—
Mr. Morgan 15	do. — do. " do.	" 1 do.			30.—
Mr. Barron " 14	do. — do. — do.	" 1 do.			28.—
Mr. Libby " 12	do. — do. — do.	" 1 do.			24.—
Mr. Fisher " 15	do. — do. — do.	" 1 do.			30.—
Mr. Shepherd. —	— — —	—	—	—	22.—
Mr. Thornton 9	do. — do. — do.	" 1 do.			18.—
Mr. Thornton 13	do. — do. — do.	" 1 do.			26.—
Mr. Hall 40	do. — do. — do.				43.—
Mr. Johnston 12	do. — do. — do.				24.—
Isaac Johnston 7	do. — do. — do.	" 1 do.			14.—
Mr. Jefferson 7	do. — do. — do.	" 1 do.			14.—
Mr. Rollins —	— — —	—	—	—	13.4
Expenses for sundry persons from Natchez &c					19.4
Public Expenses Hay & Corn &c					60.—
Paid for shoeing with Mr. Briggs					5.—
Paid of Grapp for hire of Batteau. 3 Days.					11.4
					497.4

Rec'd of the Convention $200.—

" of Mr. Barron " 28.— 228.—

Balance due T. F. 269.4

Rec'd Payment in Full

T. J. Fowlkes

Cash paid L. Ida. Indebt

" by order of the convention ——— 200.00

" Do ——— Do ——— 250.00

" Do ——— Do ——— 308.00

" Do ——— Do ——— $758.00

James Neilson

L. U. Indebted

acct. Paid $449.50